

The following is a synopsis of the vision and goals for the state as stated by Governor Ronnie Musgrove during his 2000 State of the State Address. Excerpts from State of the State Address are in *italics*.

1. *in the year 2002, we will have Internet-accessible computers in every classroom in every school in every district in every county in the State of Mississippi.*

Classroom Technology Task Force established 3-8-00, with the goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every elementary and secondary public school classroom by the end of 2002.

2. *Those teachers deserve recognition for their efforts; they deserve a fair and living wage for their labors of the heart and mind. We must take teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average.*

House Bill 1134, signed 5-1-00, established a teacher pay raise plan that will raise teachers' salaries to the Southeastern Average within 6 years. This bill also includes incentive grants for improving schools and accountability plan for low-performing schools.

3. *if we were to take partisan politics out of running our schools, and finish the work of making all Mississippi school superintendents appointed? Can we elect Mississippi's school boards and appoint Mississippi's superintendents? I believe we can. I believe we should. I believe we must.*

Donna doesn't think you should be publicly supportive of Alice Harden on this because she said that we never know what Senator Harden will do or say when she gets in a public forum.

4. *we will be looking at new ways to hold our students accountable and creative ways to encourage them to become even more active participants in their own education. Within the next few weeks we'll be starting a Reading Incentive program through the Governor's office.*

House Bill 1134 was signed 5-1-00 and provides incentive grants for improving schools and accountability plan for low-performing schools.

5. *by requiring students to address their teachers, principals, coaches and other school officials with the respectful phrases we used growing up. What's wrong with saying 'yes'sir' and no'sir?' I urge you to pass a law requiring Mississippi students to show respect to every educator while at school.*
6. *How many older Mississippians are struggling to pay their prescription drug bills every month? Can we just stand by and pretend we don't see this happening? We're not here to turn a profit for the pharmaceutical companies. We're here to do what's in the best interest of our people. Getting a handle on the escalating costs of prescription medications is the beginning.*

We have talked with some other states about this issue. We are currently in a studying phase.

7. *primary care providers are becoming more and more scarce. We must act if we are to stop this exodus. If we can identify and enact solutions to teacher shortages, surely we can find a way to craft a solution to this shortage as well.*

House Bill 729 was publicly signed on 5-2-00 and establishes a Medical Education Scholarship Program that will provide up to 20 new recipients each year with a full scholarship to obtain a medical education at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. Once a scholarship recipient has completed their residency, they agree to practice family medicine for at least 10 years in an area of the state that is designated a critical needs area.

Physicians Assistants – House Bill 846 was signed on 4-24-00 and provides for licensure and regulation of physician assistants.

8. *Are we where we should be with the Children's Health Insurance Program? The short answer is no. We must set our sights on identifying and enrolling every CHIP-eligible child in Mississippi with the same dispatch and thoroughness we would devote to a very serious public health threat.*

The Mississippi Health Benefits Program provides health insurance to Mississippi's children whose parents make too much to be eligible for Medicaid but not enough to afford private health insurance. We will be unveiling a new advertising campaign and

outreach plan to reach Mississippi's uninsured children. Our goal is to enroll 30,000 children by September 30, 2000. We currently have 6,700+ children enrolled

9. *we need to make sure we do everything we can to find an alternative to the current structure and management of our state employees' health insurance. find a way to make health insurance work for Mississippi's state employees.*

10. *We're also going to look closely at what must be done with Mississippi's prisons. I will be calling for the assembly of a Criminal Justice Task Force to examine the many issues facing our state.*

(Governor, you can decide to set a deadline and issue an executive order to establish.)

11. *I ask you to commit to fully funding Mississippi's crime lab.*

Governor has Senate Bill 3279, which is due 5-23-00.

12. *Very few will argue that illicit drug use and drug-trafficking are linked to an incredibly high percentage of crimes committed in this state. instituting stiffer penalties requires our immediate attention.*

House Bill 642, signed 4-18-00, revises schedules II, III and IV for controlled substances. Senate Bill 2442, signed 4-19-00, enhances the penalty for methamphetamine precursor violation when in possession of a weapon.

13. *we must have leaders at the Bureau putting together a comprehensive plan for fighting drug-trafficking our state.*

Don Strange has been appointed as the Director of the Bureau of Narcotics who brings with him a wealth of expertise from a federal and local level. Don has been working with enforcement officers to redevelop a plan that will effectively fight drug-trafficking in the State of Mississippi.

14. *After-school tutoring and mentoring programs are no longer a luxury for Mississippi children. Today, they have become a necessity, and we need to take programs like Support our Students statewide.*

\$1.5 Million allocated to Boys & Girls Clubs statewide for after school programming

15. That's why I am calling for restoring credibility to the Mississippi Home Corporation by reconstituting its board of directors and starting over.

House Bill 1384, due from Governor 5-23-00. Possibility of bringing up the Mississippi Home Corporation during the special session this summer. "We have worked closely with the legislature to ensure that the future of Mississippi Home Corporation is bright," said the Governor. "The hard work that has been put into this bill in jeopardy simply because of an effort by the Senate Conferees, apparently at the direction of the Lt. Governor, to reduce the Governor's ability to appoint the leadership of the Mississippi Home Corporation."

"Such a move to give appointment authority to the Lt. Governor clearly mixes legislative and executive powers in a way that is detrimental to the operation of the Mississippi Home Corporation," Musgrove said.

"I am committed to promoting integrity and accountability for the Mississippi Home Corporation," said Governor Musgrove.

16. Put a bill on my desk that fully funds workforce training through our community colleges and I will sign it into law.

Approved Senate Bill 2639 on 4-17-00 and develops an employer training program tax credit certified by the State Board for Community/Junior Colleges.

17. we need a coherent agenda for advancing our state economically. We've relied on out-dated economic plans. We've used stale incentives and we've wondered why better-paying jobs passed us by.

Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development, a coalition of Mississippi's public and private sector leadership is working together to create a new plan for economic growth in our state. We are also very involved with providing economic opportunity throughout the Delta Region with our involvement in the Delta Regional Authority.